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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : IIKAWA Makoto et al.

Group Art Unit: 3679

Appln. No. : 10/751,532

Examiner: Michael P. Ferguson

Filed : January 6, 2004

Confirmation No.: 3304

For : BAYONET COUPLING FOR AXIALLY MOUNTING ONE OF TWO
RELATIVELY ROTABLE RING-SHAPED MEMBERS ON THE OTHER

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Issue Fee
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on September 22, 2005 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
IIKAWA Makoto et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Pieprz', written over a horizontal line.

William Pieprz
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December 14, 2005
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